

Jordan Times

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Hanania to head new NHI

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Saturday announced the appointment of Dr. Daoud Hanania as director general of the newly established National Health Institution (NHI) as of Oct. 18, 1987. Dr. Hanania, who is currently director of the Armed Forces Royal Medical Services, will retain his post in addition to serving as NHI director general, according to a spokesman for the King Hussein Medical Centre. The Upper House of Parliament last August endorsed a law on the establishment of the NHI and said the new entity would embody all government and military run hospitals and health centres in the country and ensure proper health services to all citizens in the Kingdom. In addition to providing the existing medical services offered to members and families of the civil and military services, the NHI will provide care for almost a million private sector employees and their families under a national health scheme for which regulations are still to be worked out. The Cabinet also approved a loan agreement under which the Saudi Fund for Development will provide funds for the implementation of the Zarqa River Basin project. The project aims at increasing the area of cultivated land, setting up pasture lands and planting forest trees.

Morocco urges Arab action over Gulf

AMMAN (R) — Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali said on Saturday the situation in the Gulf was very dangerous and urged Arab leaders to live up to their responsibilities in the area. When they meet for summit talks in Amman next month, they should "take appropriate measures," he told reporters, without elaborating. He said he hoped the United Nations Security Council would take steps to stop the Iran-Iraq war. Mr. Filali was speaking before flying home after discussing Arab and African issues with President Hosni Mubarak and giving him a message from King Hassan. After meeting the president on Thursday, he said they had not discussed the question of Egypt's return to the Arab fold or reconnection of diplomatic relations, severed in 1979 over Egypt's treaty with Israel. There has been speculation that Morocco may follow Jordan and Djibouti by resuming relations with Cairo, the only two Arab states to have restored ties with Cairo since the break. Mr. Filali said he was taking a message from Mr. Mubarak to King Hassan.

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Royal Decree okays new Spanish envoy

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the Spanish government's nomination of Mr. Ramon Armenteros as Spain's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Jordan succeeding Mr. Emilio Menendez. Mr. Armenteros is due in Amman today. Mr. Menendez, who has been serving in Jordan since Sept. 6, 1983, has been transferred to another post at the Spanish Foreign Ministry. Mr. Armenteros held several diplomatic posts at the Spanish Foreign Ministry and has served as ambassador in Kuwait and general consul in Jerusalem. Prior to his new appointment, he was Spain's general consul in Luxembourg.

Kibli expected here by end of the month

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab League Secretary General Chadii Kibli is due here towards the end of this month leading an Arab League delegation to take part in arrangements and preparations for the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Amman on Nov. 8. Mr. Kibli and the delegation will stay in Amman until the opening of the summit and attend the conference.

Majali returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali returned home on Saturday after delivering invitations from His Majesty King Hussein to the leaders of Tunisia, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Mauritania to attend the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Amman on Nov. 8. Mr. Majali told Petra that all the three leaders he met had agreed to attend the summit.

Howe to visit Jordan next month

AMMAN (J.T.) — British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe will pay a three-day official visit to Jordan at the beginning of November, informed sources said Saturday. During the visit, the sources said, Mr. Howe will meet with senior Jordanian officials to review latest developments in the Middle East as well as bilateral relations.

Iraqi jets bomb Iranian positions

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A military spokesman said Iraqi planes bombed Iranian troop concentrations on the Gulf front on Saturday, adding that no residential areas in Iran were hit. Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency said several people were "martyred" or wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed three villages near a town on the Iran-Iraq border in Kurdistan region. Of 111 air raids reported, one targeted the Imam Hassan oilfields, said the Iraqi News Agency. One jet was shot down and crashed in Iranian territory, the communiqué said, holding Iranian authorities responsible for the safety of the pilot.

Musavi goes to Syria today

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Prime Minister Mir-Hosseini Musavi will visit Syria on an official visit on Sunday, Iran's national news agency (IRNA) reported. Mr. Musavi met President Ali Khamenei in Tehran to review issues to be discussed in Damascus, the agency said.

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Flash floods wreak havoc in Zarqa, eastern regions

Four killed and three missing • Losses estimated at hundreds of thousands of dinars

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

ZARQA — Four people drowned and three others were reported missing in flash floods that hit Zarqa and the eastern parts of Jordan over the past two days causing heavy losses to factories and businesses.

Zarqa Governor Eid Al Qatarnah made the announcement about the casualties and the material damage during an inspection tour of the stricken areas. He said that the Civil Defence Department, in cooperation with municipal teams and the Public Security Department, had brought the flood danger under control.

Mr. Qatarnah, who is also chairman of the public safety committee in Zarqa region, said in a statement the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that several vehicles on the main Amman-Zarqa highway and near the Awajan Bridge and Wadi Al Hajar district were washed away in the torrent.

Army helicopters were called out to take part in the rescue operations, he said.

The main highway between Amman and Zarqa was inundated.

Dated with at least two metres of water in some places causing total disruption of traffic and severe damage.

The floods, which resulted from a rain storm, caused extensive damage to property owned by people living alongside the Zarqa River, Wadi Al Hajar, Wadi Al Qatar and Wadi Al 'Aish and also caused the death of three people and injured others who were treated at local hospitals, according to Mr. Qatarnah.

Mr. Qatarnah appealed to people living in low-lying areas and near the streams and wadis to evacuate the area in case floods occurred in their regions because of possible more rains and the high level of water in Zarqa River.

According to PSD reports, roads leading to Hallabat in the eastern regions of Zarqa were closed due to landslides and damage to culverts. The PSD appealed to members of the public to avoid travelling along the eastern roads of Zarqa in view of the weather conditions.

Workers caught in the flash storm were moved to safer ground and water was being pumped away from homes lying alongside the Zarqa River where water level rose to eight metres, according to civil defence reports.

In reporting the situation on

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. navy hands over captured sailors and 2 bodies to Iran

MUSCAT (Agencies) — The United States on Saturday handed over four Iranian sailors captured in a Gulf battle and the men were flown home aboard an Iranian aircraft, the Oman News Agency reported.

The four seamen were taken in a battle between Iranian gunboats and American helicopters in the northern Gulf on Oct. 8, in which the U.S. navy said it sank one vessel and captured two smaller craft.

The bodies of two other Iranian seamen who died of their wounds were also handed over to Iranian officials at Oman's Seeb airbase 40 kilometres northwest of Muscat.

It was the second such repatriation carried out with Oman serving as intermediary in the past month.

The Oman Information Ministry said in a statement that "the Omani government today sponsored the turnover of the Iranian sailors who survived from the Iranian boats which clashed with the American planes lately to the Iranian government."

"We've had a naval presence in the Gulf since 1949," he added. "Any risk to that naval presence or to U.S.-flagged commercial

Reagan: Gulf threats will be dealt with 'appropriately'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan said Saturday that threats to American naval forces and protected ships in the Gulf will be dealt with appropriately.

The comments, in Mr. Reagan's weekly radio address, came amid reports that the Pentagon was preparing contingency plans for possible retaliation against Iran for a missile attack on a U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti ship.

Mr. Reagan's remarks, like those of lower-level officials since the Friday attack, did not spell out what the United States might do in response to the attack against the tanker Sea Isle City, which U.S. officials said most likely was hit by an Iranian Silkworm missile.

But he repeated a vow to continue the U.S. policy of keeping an armed presence in the Gulf and to protect American ships and commercial vessels flying the U.S. flag.

"Freedom of navigation in international waters is a cardinal principle of our policy and especially in that regard of the world of vital interest," Mr. Reagan said.

"The summit should be an opportunity for Arab leaders to work out a unified pan-Arab attitude vis-a-vis Iran's insistence on

(Continued on page 3)

Egypt condemns Iran and renews support of Kuwait

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt said Saturday that Iran's attack on a U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti tanker in Kuwaiti territorial waters constituted aggression against its Gulf neighbour and violated international law.

In a statement to reporters, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid recalled a pledge by President Hosni Mubarak this month that Egypt would do everything it can to support Kuwait if the Iran-Iraq war spills over into that country.

"We renew our appeal to Iran to refrain from acts of aggression that do not serve the cause of international peace and security," Mr. Abdul Meguid said.

The statement grew out of Friday's Iranian missile attack on the 81,283-tonne Sea Isle City near Kuwait's main oil terminal, in which at least 16 crewmen, including the American captain, were wounded.

The president, government and people of Egypt strongly condemn Iran's attack to which the sister state Kuwait was subjected," Mr. Abdul Meguid said.

"This new action by Iran further aggravates the dangerous situation and requires the whole international community to expedite implementation of Resolution 598 of the U.N. Security Council."



A cart-pulling horse lies dead in a Zarqa street with the wrecked cart after flash floods hit the area on Friday and Saturday (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

N. Yemeni leader affirms attendance at summit, hopes for Arab solidarity

By Abdullah Nasour
Special to the Jordan Times

SANA — North Yemeni President Ali Abdul Salih has affirmed that his country would participate in the extraordinary Arab summit meeting scheduled to be held in Amman on Nov. 8.

In an interview with the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i Arabic daily, President Saleh said that his country had based its policy on "working towards serving the Arab Nation and its causes and North Yemen will not hesitate to undertake any effort aimed at restoring Arab solidarity."

"We seek solidarity and harmony, cooperation and coordination among Arab countries and we hope that the coming summit in Amman will help us to achieve that goal," the president said.

In reply to a question on the Iran-Iraq war, President Saleh said that he appreciates Iraq's favourable response to mediation



Ali Abdul Salih efforts to end the war with Iran. He expressed hope that Iran would "display a similar response and help implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and realise that no-one except the common enemy can benefit from the present conflict."

"This war has been sapping the

resources of the Arab and Islamic Nations and its continuation will cause more tension leading to serious complications and more destruction and loss for both parties," the president said.

North Yemen's relations with Jordan, Mr. Saleh said, are characterised by brotherly cooperation in all fields and are expected to develop more in the coming years.

On the situation in North Yemen, the president said that over the 25 years that followed the revolution in the country thousands of schools were built.

The University of Sanaa was established and more people have been receiving education.

At present, he said, nearly one and a half million children are attending school at different levels.

In addition, the president said,

the country has built numerous hospitals and health centres and carried out development projects.

Whether this changed or not because of the latest attack — the second on a Kuwaiti tanker in two days — could not be immediately learned.

Palestinians in occupied territories stage protests over Shultz' visit

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinians in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip staged strikes and stoned troops on Saturday after being called on to demonstrate against the visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Palestinian sources said six of the eight Palestinians invited to meet Mr. Shultz on Saturday would boycott the meeting, sending the deposed mayor of Hebron, Mustafa Natsheh, instead of the secretary of state.

In Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, a Palestinian youth was killed when a car hit him as he ran from Israeli soldiers, an Israeli army spokesman said.

A group of protesters staged an army observation post and fled when reinforcements arrived, while fleeing one (protester) ran into the street and was hit by a car," the spokesman said.

The statement describes the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the representative of the Palestinian people, denounces the closure of a PLO-linked information office in Washington and rejects U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 as a basis for Middle East peace, it said.

Mr. Vorontsov arrived here from Amman. During his stay in Jordan, he was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Prime Minister Zaid Rifa'i.

In a statement given to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, upon his departure, Mr. Vorontsov expressed his pleasure over his visit to Jordan.

He described his meetings with the Crown Prince and with the prime minister as an excellent opportunity to exchange views about various issues of common interest.

Mr. Vorontsov added that the 37-year-old paratroop captain had been shot dead.

He died with 12 of his closest advisers when they resisted arrest in Thursday's bloody coup, diplomat quoted the new team as saying.

The diplomats said the coup leader, Captain Blaise Compaore, did not attend the meeting and his aides described him as too tired.

Those present included Captain Henri Zongo and Major Jean-Baptiste Lingani, the former defence minister.

Along with Capt. Sankara and Capt. Compaore, the slain leader's second-in-command, they made up the four-man team which had governed the impoverished

West African nation since a 1983 coup.

Before the meeting it had not been known whether they had sided with Capt. Compaore in Thursday's coup in which political sources said as many as 100 people were killed when troops stormed the presidential palace and the state radio building.

The diplomats said that Capt. Compaore, Capt. Zongo and Major Lingani appeared to be the leading members of a so-called Popular Front set up to replace the now disbanded National Revolutionary Council (NRC).

Popular Front leaders said the diplomats they had acted on a tipoff that Capt. Sankara intended to execute those planning to oppose him at a meeting of the NRC scheduled for Thursday evening.

They also criticised at length his "whimsical and immature political style" and said rectifications were badly needed to put an end to political infighting and economic chaos, the diplomats said.

Capt. Sankara and his aides, including Interior Minister Ernest Ouédraogo and presidential spokesman Bahou Paulin Bamouni, were buried in a cemetery near Ouagadougou on Friday morning but the Popular Front has yet to officially announce the deaths.

Thousands of people, in solemn and silent mood, have filed past the graves in the past 24 hours, eyewitnesses said.

State radio maintained a barrage of anti-Sankara statements, with the latest criticising his "infantile" foreign policy which it said caused unnecessary tension with unnamed neighbouring states.

Under left-wing Sankara, Burkina Faso fought a five-day war with neighbouring Mali and relations with pro-Western Ivory Coast deteriorated.

Burkina Faso coup leaders say Sankara planned to kill opponents

OUAGADOUGOU (R) — Several of Burkina Faso's new military leaders met foreign ambassadors on Friday night and told them they had not planned to kill President Thomas Sankara.

It was the first confirmation that the 37-year-old paratroop captain had been shot dead.

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West African nation since a 1983 coup.

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Kuwait 'tried to down Silkworm missile' that hit U.S. flag tanker

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Kuwaiti military forces detected the firing of a Silkworm missile Friday at a tanker steaming inside its territorial waters and tried to shoot it down with a missile of their own, Pentagon sources disclosed.

The sources, who insisted on anonymity, said Kuwaiti forces had fired a small surface-to-air missile from the island of Faylaka at the Silkworm as it passed nearby on a trajectory toward an oil-loading facility.

The Kuwaiti missile was unable to intercept the Silkworm, however, which then struck a Kuwaiti tanker flying the American flag, the sources said.

One official identified the Kuwaiti missile as a "Strela," the old Western code name for the Soviet Union's SA-7.

According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies, a London-based organization that keeps track of military arsenals around the world, Kuwait is known to have purchased SA-7's from the Soviet Union. The SA-7 is a small, shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missile that relies on a heat-seeking warhead.

The SA-7 has a range of only slightly more than 2 miles (3.2 kilometres), however, "and it obviously wasn't good enough to down the Silkworm," said one

source.

"The SA-7 is great against helicopters, but you'd have to be mighty lucky to hit another missile with one."

"At least they tried to do something," said another official.

According to the sources, the Kuwaiti effort to down the missile explained why that Gulf state was so quick to identify the weapon that struck the Sea Isle City as a Silkworm, a Chinese-built anti-shipping missile acquired by Iran that has a range of roughly 80 kilometres.

Despite the Kuwaiti claims, the Pentagon initially reported Friday morning it was unclear whether the tanker had been hit by a bomb or missile. Only on Friday afternoon did the Pentagon finally announce that it was convinced a Silkworm had been fired.

The sources said the Silkworm was fired by Iranian forces from the Fao peninsula. That area is about 80 kilometres from the Kuwaiti anchorage used by tankers when they load oil — just

barely within the range of the Silkworm.

Any missile fired by Iran from Al Fao toward the Kuwaiti anchorage must pass over or near the Kuwaiti island of Faylaka, the sources said.

It could not be learned immediately whether the Kuwaitis knew the Iranians were preparing to fire a missile or simply detected it on radar after it was launched.

The Iranian missile blasted the U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti tanker Friday, wounding the captain and 17 other crewmen, underscoring Tebran's defiance of the American presence in the Gulf.

It was the first direct attack on a Kuwaiti tanker re-registered in the United States.

The White House said "Iran has committed an outrageous act of aggression against a non-belligerent country, Kuwait, and a U.S. flag vessel operating commercially and peacefully."

U.S. officials hinted their response might be tempered because it happened in Kuwaiti rather than international waters. But in Washington, Senator Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said such attacks could lead to "possible and even probable retaliation."

Shipping sources said the Silkworm was fired by Iranian forces from the Fao peninsula. That area is about 80 kilometres from the Kuwaiti anchorage used by tankers when they load oil — just

Iran did not claim responsibility for the attack. President Ali Khamenei told a Muslim congregation in Tebran: "Where did the missile come from? The almighty knows best."

The American captain of the U.S.-registered tanker may lose his eyesight, hospital sources said.

The sources at the Al Adan Hospital near Kuwait's main oil installations, said 50-year-old John Hunt suffered lacerations to the face, chest and left hand.

He underwent surgery on his eyes on Friday afternoon but was unlikely to regain use of them, the sources said.

Capt. Hunt was the most seriously injured of 18 crew-injured when the missile hit the accommodation quarters of the tanker.

The hospital sources said another member of the crew, 38-year-old British engineer Robert Stanney, had burns over 15 per cent of his body.

The wounded, out of a crew of 28, included another Briton, one Italian, a Pakistani and 13 Filipinos. Eleven received hospital treatment, the sources said.

Shipping sources said the missile hit the front of the accommodation quarters setting them on fire.

Shipowners fly foreign 'flag of convenience'

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the 1970s, when it was illegal to serve alcohol aboard U.S. ships, an American line put two of its cruise ships under the flag of Panama, says Philip J. Lorce, director of the Federation of American Coordinated Shipping.

Today major shipowners from Norway to Japan register some of their ships under "flags of convenience" — not because of like laws, but because it saves money on wages and taxes.

They include French, West German and Greek owners, Mr. Lorce said.

Some governments have found ways of keeping ships under their own flags but easing tax and manning requirements. British ships, for example, are now often registered in Gibraltar or the Isle of Man. Both are part of Britain, but different regulations apply.

Mette Koogsmann, transportation counselor at the Norwegian embassy in Washington, recalled that Norway once had the world's biggest merchant fleet.

As of July 1, there were 486 Norwegian-owned ships registered under the Norwegian flag and 491 under other flags. Beginning July 1, Norway introduced a new system under which some ships could still be considered Norwegian but are entered on a special register that enables them to hire more non-Norwegian crews.

On Thursday, what was believed to be an Iranian missile struck the Sungari, which flies the Liberian flag but is owned by a New York company. Under present U.S. policy it was not entitled to U.S. protection.

American owners of ships flying other flags met recently with U.S. Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost to ask protection in the Gulf war, but there has been no public indication that President Ronald Reagan's administration is ready to grant it.

Iran and Iraq have been attacking neutral shipping in the Gulf for the past seven years. The United States and other leading navies have started giving more protection in recent months, but only to ships registered in their own countries.

The United States protects only ships under the U.S. flag. They include the Kuwaiti oil tankers now flying the U.S. flag, which can not land at a U.S. port.

"A ship like that costs about \$700,000 a year to operate, with British officers and mostly Filipino crews," Mr. Lorce said in an interview. "If they came into an American port, they would have to have all American officers and 75 per cent American crews. That would raise the cost to about \$3.4 million a year."

A ship owned by an American company can employ a foreign crew, pay foreign wages and land in the United States — as long as it flies another country's flag.

Other countries have similar restrictions.

Carter predicts more violence in Gulf

WASHINGTON (R) — Former President Jimmy Carter said on Friday that the United States had effectively sided with Iraq in its seven-year-old war with Iran and predicted U.S. forces would be drawn into more intense fighting.

Responding to news the White House had accused Iran of a missile attack against the 81,283-tonne U.S.-flagged Sea Isle City in Kuwaiti waters on Friday, Mr. Carter said: "I think perhaps we'll respond. This is the tragedy of it."

"Down through history whenever a nation like ours injects itself into a military conflict, a civil war like in Lebanon or a war like between Iran and Iraq, we almost inevitably are destined to become involved as a belligerent," Mr. Carter told an audience at a symposium on U.S. foreign policy.

Mr. Carter, a Georgia Democrat, cited his own bitter experience with Iran during the 1979-1981 hostage crisis in which 52 Americans were held prisoner.

Negotiations stalled and an abortive military rescue effort doomed Mr. Carter's chances of reelection. Mr. Reagan beat him by a landslide in 1980.

Mr. Carter said suicide boats

on U.S. warships by Iranian boats laden with explosives were a serious threat.

"I've dealt with the psychology of Iranians... It is a consumption of their ordained existence to give their lives against a declared enemy," he said.

"I was in the navy for 11 years and I know the vulnerability of ships to this kind of a suicide attack. I don't think there is any doubt that if this continues we are going to see a similar attack maybe on an American warship."

Mr. Carter estimated the United States was spending more on Gulf naval operations than the oil of exports that Washington was supposedly protecting.

He said the U.S. naval operations had intensified the violence in the Gulf, leading to more deaths and attacks on ships that would have occurred if America had stayed out and pursued diplomatic solutions to the war.

Iraq under curfew for nationwide census

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi citizens stayed home under almost total curfew on Saturday for the biggest census in the country's history.

Schools, offices, banks and transport systems all closed down.

Streets in Baghdad and other cities were deserted, apart from workers in essential services, as

government officials made house-to-house calls. More than 170,000 of them, using 6,000 cars, were involved in the nationwide exercise.

Outgoing flights from Bagdad were halted and incoming passengers were being kept at the airport until the nine-hour curfew ends at 5 p.m.

The last curfew imposed in

Iran reportedly may have seized 30 Stingers

WASHINGTON (R) — Iranian Revolutionary Guards may have stolen as many as 30 U.S.-made Stinger missiles from an Afghan rebel convoy last spring, Defence officials said on Saturday.

The United States said it found

firing mechanisms and packing

material for a Stinger aboard one

of two Iranian patrol boats captured in a clash in the Gulf on Oct. 8.

The Iranian rebels claimed to have

brought down a U.S. helicopter

with a Stinger during the incident, in which a third Iranian patrol boat was sunk and two

Iranians were killed.

Washington has refused to sell

Stingers to Gulf Arab states, fearing they might fall into the hands of extremists, but has supplied large numbers to the Afghan guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said they now believe the Iranians may have seized up to 30 Stingers from rebel truck convoys.

Serial numbers on the parts

enabled the United States to trace their origin.

The New York Times said on Saturday the Afghan convoy had crossed the border into Iran, for unclear reasons, and had been overcome by a group of Iranian after a firefight.

The Iranians were reported to have freed the Afghans but kept the Stingers.

Missile attacks show Kuwaiti oil exports still vulnerable despite escort

BAHRAIN (R) — Iranian missile strikes on tankers off Kuwait show the emirate's vital oil export

line is still open to attack in spite of the presence in the Gulf region of nearly 30 U.S. warships sent to protect it.

The U.S.-owned Sungari, hit on Thursday and Kuwait's Sea Isle City, sailing under the American flag and attacked on Friday, were the first Kuwaiti-operated tankers damaged since July 24 when the Bridgeton hit a mine.

Kuwait said two weeks ago it was pleased with U.S. Navy escorts of its reflagged tankers even though the scheme had slowed down some oil and gas deliveries.

Since July 18, Kuwait has attacked several other tankers away from the escorted convoys, bound to or from Kuwait.

Friday's attack a few miles

from Kuwait's two oil ports, Mina Al Ahmadi and Shuaiba, showed Iran's ability to hit Kuwait where it hurt. Western diplomats said it hurt.

Most of the emirate's crude oil, petroleum products and petrochemical exports, its main source of income, are shipped from the two ports.

These fears worsened with the arrival of U.S. warships escorting the 23-tanker fleet.

Kuwait said after Thursday's attack that all its oil facilities were working normally and the flow had not been interrupted.

The emirate is struggling to increase oil revenue to help recover from a five-year recession stemming from falling oil prices and a 1982 stock market crash.

It increased oil output in August, with most other Gulf producers, to more than 1.8 million barrels daily from 1.3 million barrels in July.

nis of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has set as its quota.

At least six tankers owned or operated by Kuwait oil tankers company came under attack in 1986, leading to fears that the emirate's oil and products exports would be disrupted.

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Khalid taxi 644385-66
Patriot taxi 671473-44
Shamsani taxi 644384-55
Nehar taxi 644384-72
Jordan taxi 632301-30

AMBULANCE: Dr. Munir Wardi 782352-53
Dr. Atif Dabbas 643384-56
Dr. Saleh Tannous 643384-56
Dr. Jamil Murada 776149-50
Firdos pharmacy 643384-56
Al Asmae pharmacy 643384-56
Nairoukh pharmacy 643384-56
Al Salam pharmacy 643384-56

IRBIDS: Dr. Ahmad Nakour 643384-56
Dr. Hisham Sharabi 643384-56
Al Salam 643384-56

ZARQA: Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 771101-13
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 643384-56
Army, Marks 643384-56
Queen Alia Hospital 643384-56
Amal Hospital 674155

HOSPITALS: Al-Hussein Medical Centre 813813-26
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 644281-16
Al-Ahli Maternity, J. Ann 643421-16
Shamsani Hospital 644384-55
Al-Mansuri Hospital 644384-55
The Islamic, Abdal 644384-55
Italian, Al-Muhajireen 771112-13
Abdul, Tel. 643384-56
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 775111-26
Army, Marks 643384-56
Queen Alia Hospital 643384-56
Amal Hospital 674155

MARKET PRICES: Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple (Lebanese-Turkish) 300 / 250
Apple (French) 400 / 350
Banana 300 / 250
Marrow 200 / 180
Olive 420 / 360
Cabbage 250 / 200
Cauliflower 130 / 90
Cucumbers 200 / 140
Dates 420 / 360
Eggs (large) 250 / 200
Eggs (small) 120 / 80
Figs 400 / 350
Garlic 500 / 400
Grapes (white) 320 / 260
Grapes (black) 320 / 260
Grapefruit 100 / 70
Gruyere 300 / 250
Lemon (yellow) 120 / 90
Mallow 60 / 40
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Olive 420 / 360
Onion (dry) 150 / 100
Okra 500 / 400
Pomegranates 380 / 320

Home news

Jordan honours farmers

AMMAN (Petra) — Six farmers who had excelled in the cultivation of their land and in raising livestock were honoured Saturday at a special ceremony held at Tyche Hotel in Amman as part of the country's celebrations of the World Food Day.

The six farmers received certificates of merit and awards from the Ministry of Agriculture Under Secretary Salem Al Lawzi.

Dr. Lawzi, addressing the ceremony, said that Jordan has been striving to increase food production and to ensure food security for its people.

Jordan realises the world food problem and is ready to work in solidarity with Arab states and world nations at large and with various world organisations to combat hunger, poverty and malnutrition, Dr. Lawzi said in his address.

He said that Jordan has been able to accomplish great achievements in the agricultural sector in a relatively short period of time especially in achieving self sufficiency in the production of vegetables, fruits and poultry.

But, he promised, Jordan will continue to strive to produce more dairy products, lean meat and meat in general.

Dr. Lawzi said that Jordan will make every possible effort for ensuring food security that leads to world peace because it realises that the world community has the potential to eradicate all roots of poverty, malnutrition and hunger.

The ceremony was also addressed by Dr. Abdul Karim Al Khazraji, director of the Amman-based Regional Poultry Training and Development Centre for the Near East.

Dr. Khazraji said that the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has realised the importance of producing as much food as possible by depending on small farmers; and that for this reason FAO has been extending credits to various countries to help small farmers to achieve that goal.

In his speech, Dr. Khazraji outlined the various efforts of FAO in promoting food production and improving living conditions in the rural regions around the world.

Mr. Qasem Amara, representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan, made a

Report highlights Israeli moves against Arab education

AMMAN (Petra) — A report submitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) reveals inhuman practices exercised by the Israeli authorities against the Arab population under Israel's occupation and against the freedom of Arab-owned academic institutions.

The report, prepared by Father Edward Bonnet from the Louvain University of Brussels spoke in length about the closure by Israeli authorities of Arab educational institutions and universities and the disruption of educational life in the Israeli-held Arab lands.

The Israeli authorities carried out 47 closures of these institutions in the past few years causing the loss of 1,787 school days, the report said.

The report noted that towards the end of the past academic year, a new wave of additional closures were ordered of different institutions of higher learning, including Birzeit, Bethlehem, Al Najah and Hebron universities.

The Israeli authorities normally impose strict control on all Arabic-language publications and all Arab authors and writers are usually questioned and their publications confiscated for merely mentioning the name of Palestine, Father Bonnet pointed out.

He said that in this respect nearly 2,000 publications were banned.

The banning of cultural publications, the report said, is bound to cause severe damage to the education of Palestinian children.

The Arab universities under Israeli rule continue to complain

Seminar tackles drug addiction

IRBD (Petra) — A three-day symposium on combating drugs opened at Yarmouk University Saturday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, deputising for Prince Hassan, delivered the Crown Prince's speech in which he underlined the need for Arab universities and research centres to double their efforts to combat drug addiction.

Prince Hassan called for serious efforts to be made at all regional and international levels in the fight against drugs. Large sectors of Arab societies have fallen victim to drugs and it is therefore the national duty of all Arabs to contribute to the endeavours being staged to stem this grave danger.

The ministry contributes to draw up standard specifications for the local food production and adheres to such specifications," he said. "In case of shortage in the local production of food, the ministry imports such food items as wheat, rice, sugar, meat, poultry, lentils, powdered milk and olive oil through international tenders, in which Jordanian merchants take part.

"Prices of such food items are reasonable and stable throughout the year," Mr. Hawamdeh noted.

He added that some items are even sold at prices less than the cost prices as it is the case of flour and some kinds of fodder.

Mr. Hawamdeh pointed out that the ministry imports every year 400,000 tonnes of wheat, 120,000 tonnes of sugar, 60,000 tonnes of rice, 24,000 tonnes of meat, 4,000 tonnes of poultry in case of a shortage in local production. 3,000-4,000 tonnes of olive oil, 3,000 tonnes of lentils, 120,000 tonnes of haricot, 60,000 tonnes of maize in addition to vegetable oils and ghee.

Speaking on the ministry's projects, Mr. Hawamdeh said that the ministry has constructed grain silos with a capacity of 350,000 tonnes which will be increased to 500,000 tonnes to ensure that there is enough supply of wheat.

The Ministry has also constructed stores with a present capacity of 100,000 tonnes to be increased to 150,000 tonnes in the future. It also has cold rooms in Aqaba, Juwaideh and Irbid to store items that are destroyed by heat.

Ministry begins training course to upgrade municipal efficiency

SALT (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Saturday opened a training course for personnel employed by 13 municipal and local councils in the Balqa District.

The participants, who are engineers, surveyors and foremen employed in carrying out different municipal projects in the Balqa Governorate, will hear lectures on municipal regulations and laws, water and health services, control of food supplies and the work of slaughter houses.

The training course is the third of its kind held by the ministry for

the benefit of municipal councils in the Kingdom.

According to a ministry spokesman, two other training courses will be held after the conclusion of this week-long training course which is being held at the Princess Rahmeh Community Development Centre in the town of Al-Ula near Salt.

Addressing the opening session was Ministry Under-Secretary Awad Al Tal who said that the government has given sufficient care to the development of local communities through promoting the work of municipal councils.

He said that to ensure local

people's participation in running the affairs of their respective regions and carrying out various public activities nearly 20 courses for municipal personnel are being organised in cooperation with the University of Jordan, the Institute of Public Administration every year.

The courses are aimed at providing the participants with skills to raise their efficiency and to promote the work of local councils, the under-secretary noted.

Salt Mayor Abdul Razzak Nsour was among those attending the opening ceremony.

Reagan: Gulf threats will be dealt with 'appropriately'

(Continued from page 1) the continuation and expansion of the war to the effect of jeopardising Arab security," the statement said.

The emergency Arab summit would mainly focus on Arab relations with Iran after Tehran's refusal to abide by U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 demanding a ceasefire in the war with Iraq.

The statement said the Arab diplomats "expressed their countries' sympathies and firm solidarity with the State of Kuwait versus these aggressions."

In addition to the Iranian missile fired at the Sea Isle City, the U.S.-owned Liberian-flag Sunari also was damaged by a missile on Thursday.

Kuwait's Foreign Under-Secretary Suleiman Majed Al Staheini summoned the ambassadors of the 15 countries member of the U.N. Security Council, an official announcement said.

It said Mr. Shaheen briefed the diplomats on the Iranian attacks on two tankers in Kuwaiti territorial waters and told them that "Kuwait was taking whatever measures that it deemed appropriate for protecting its security, safety and rights."

Kuwait has lodged a protest against the Iranian attacks at the United Nations and reserved the right to call for an emergency Security Council session on the incidents, according to reports from New York.

After the first attack on Thursday, Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad sent urgent messages to the U.N. secretary-general and to the secretaries-general of the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the 46-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference.

A senior U.S. official accom-

panying U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd said it was not clear the Sea Isle City was singled out because it was flying the U.S. flag.

"I do not have evidence that the U.S. flag on the Sea Isle City was spotted and the target was that precise," the official told reporters.

Kuwait's state-controlled press has urged decisive U.S. action against Iran for the missile attack.

"Will the U.S. come out with a strong deterrent action or will it just keep putting interpretations to these defiant acts to embolden the perpetrator?" the Kuwait Times asked.

The Arabic daily Al-Anbaa said Friday's attack amounted to an Iranian declaration of war against Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia denounced on Saturday "open Iranian aggression" on tankers in Kuwaiti waters and expressed solidarity with the emirate in the defence of its territory, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

Flash floods wreak havoc

(Continued from page 1) Friday, the PSD said that the floods carried earth and stone that blocked several roads. Civil defence and PSD teams were at work on Saturday to open the closed roads.

Rains continued on Saturday in Amman and other parts of the country with thunderstorms at times.

The director-general of the Meteorological Department, Ali Abada, said the rains were the result of instability in atmosphere resulting from the creation of a depression over the Red Sea which extended northwards to cover the southern and eastern regions of Jordan and Syria.

Dr. Abada told Petra that the depression in the lower layers of the atmosphere coincided with the accumulation of cold air fronts in the higher layers causing wind to blow and clouds to form turning into rains in most parts of the eastern and southern parts of the Kingdom.

According to Dr. Abada, the Al-Jafr region in the south-east received 66 millimetres of rain until 9 p.m. on Friday the highest amount of rain to fall this year. The storm and wind, which had a speed of 55 kilometres an hour, caused clouds of dust in most of the regions of the east and south, Dr. Abada added.

Dr. Abada said that, although the storm had subsided, the Kingdom would remain under the effect of the depression and that more showers are expected to fall in Jordan over the coming two days.

"I don't see that in some sense we are at loggerheads," Redman said, but added that they should first come here. "They are being repatriated, so they should come to Israel," he said.

Mr. Shultz's talks also focused on Israel's campaign for massive increases in Jewish immigration

from the Soviet Union.

Both Mr. Shamir and Mr. Peres urged Mr. Shultz, who will be in Moscow next week, to relay to Soviet authorities their insistence that Jews with exit permits be flown here directly.

Israeli leaders told Mr. Shultz it was important to establish direct flights from Moscow to Israel for Soviet Jews because according to the current rate only about one-third of the emigrants were coming to Israel, while the rest settled in Europe or the United States.

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Look, the other way

ON THE eve of his current visit to the Middle East, the first since May 1985, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said he was coming to the area rather empty-handed and with no new ideas to offer, and that the sole purpose of his trip was just to listen to the leaders of the capitals that are on his itinerary and to establish if there are any new ideas that are floating around with a view to accelerate the search for Middle East peace. In the same breath, Mr. Shultz also contended that he had neither the intention nor the mandate to exercise any arms twisting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to accept the projected international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

With the conclusion of the first leg of his swing of our region, the consequences of his talks with Israeli leaders seem to bear him out. Although secrecy still shrouds the results of his talks with Shamir, enough information has already leaked that the present government in Israel has not budged one inch from its opposition to the principle of holding the international conference.

If this is indeed the position and intention of the U.S. administration, why then, may we ask, did Secretary Shultz bother to come to us after so many months of absence? As a matter of fact Mr. Shultz will be well advised to realise that we in the Middle East do not await or want any new ideas on how to resolve our conflict with Israel. There is already a plethora of ideas on how to breathe life into the dormant peace process: the proposition to convene the international conference being the most viable and practical idea around.

It will be recalled that the U.N. Security Council and General Assembly have clearly pronounced themselves on how to proceed with the search for peace between the Arabs and Israelis, and their determination constitutes the only legitimate way to move forward, if indeed the U.S. and Israel want to move ahead in the direction of a negotiated settlement.

Moreover, all the parties to the conflict have accepted the most recent U.N. formula to settle the Palestinian problem with only Israel still dragging its feet on the proposal, if it is not outright opposed to it. Unfortunately the U.S.' half-hearted support for the idea of the international party has contributed substantially to the negative Israeli response to it. As Mr. Shultz continues his visit to other capitals in the area, we might ask him to stop wasting his time and ours and use whatever time left for his mission of peace to our region to exert the kind of pressure needed on the Israeli prime minister to heed the international will on the question of peace in the Holy Land. It is sheer nonsense to argue that by doing so the U.S. would in effect be interfering in Israeli domestic affairs. What we are talking about here is an international and regional problem that needs the active involvement of world powers to be solved. If Secretary Shultz does not want to look at it that way, it is his prerogative. It is anybody's choice to be mistaken, except that the stakes in this case, especially for the Americans, are very high.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Superpowers compete

THE Arab region is at present witnessing intensive diplomatic activity on the part of the superpowers. The United States and the Soviet Union. In Amman Prince Hassan met with Yuli Vorontsov, the first deputy Soviet foreign minister, to discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict, the situation in the Gulf and Moscow's role in establishing peace in the two regions. At the same time U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Israel for talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Upon his departure from Washington Shultz said that he does not carry any new proposals for peace and the Israeli officials said that the visit does not mean progress has been achieved on the way of establishing peace between Israel and its neighbours. American officials on the other hand said that the visit was to reassert U.S. presence in the region after a long absence of diplomatic activity which opened the way for Soviet activity. But as the talks with Mr. Vorontsov were quite open and candid, the talks between Shultz and Shamir were shrouded with mystery. On the whole, the contacts being made in the region implies that the situation in the Middle East will figure high on the agenda of the Shultz-Shevardnadze talks to be held in Moscow soon. It should be emphasised that Washington's refusal of the idea of an international conference on the Middle East and its exploitation of the Gulf conflict for its own purpose have been behind the tension in the two regions. What is required is a true peace in the two regions and not the mere presence of either or both of the two superpowers diplomatically or militarily.

Al Dastour: Honouring Shultz

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz who has been away from the Middle East region for two and a half years has returned to it only to receive two honorary degrees from Israel for his good behaviour towards the Jewish state. Shultz who is going to Moscow on a visit later on, has said that he does not expect a breakthrough in the current Middle East deadlock and his visit was a casual one. For this reason, we look on this visit as one more evidence of Washington's inactive attitude towards resolving the Middle East problem and towards its commitments as a superpower. There is no doubt that the on-going Gulf war and the divisions within the Arab ranks have pushed the Middle East problem towards the end of the list of priorities at all international forums in general and at superpower meetings in particular. For this reason, we can only have hope in the coming extraordinary Arab summit meeting in Amman. We hope that the Arabs will in the coming summit find a formula to end the pitiful condition in which they live at present, and force the superpowers to reconsider their just cause with seriousness. Unless the Arab countries bring about a change in themselves and in their own positions there can be no chance for a just peace, and there would be no hope to be pinned on Shultz and his tour nor on any other envoy visiting this region. Unless the Arabs make the change now, America's disregard of the Middle East question and the just Arab causes will continue.

Egypt's ties with Arab World flourish despite boycott

By Alistair Lyon
Reuter

AMMAN — Eight years after the Arab League bundled Egypt out into the cold for signing a peace treaty with Israel, Cairo is basking in unaccustomed Arab warmth.

But change in political climate is still not enough to allow Egypt to attend an emergency Arab summit in Amman next month over the objections of its radical six-year term.

The shift towards Egypt has coincided with a growing perception among moderate Arab states that the Iran-Iraq war poses a more immediate threat to their security than Israel.

The summit was initially called to discuss the seven-year-old Gulf war but the agenda was broadened to accommodate Syria in particular.

Kuwait's state-owned Al Rai newspaper said Mubarak should be invited to the Amman summit "to fill a gap that is a fatal weak point in the Arab body."

cue if Iran overwhelms Iraq and threatens their stability.

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak publicly offered on Monday to do just that for Kuwait, which is within earshot of the Gulf war front.

"We side with Kuwait with all our feelings and potentials in her defence of her sovereignty and the safety of her people," he said in a speech to start his second

year as president.

All Gulf Arab leaders congratulated Mubarak on his re-election. Saudi Arabia's Al Riyad daily, praising his policies at home and abroad, called him a "man of the moment."

Egypt today under Mubarak is a base for firm Arabism ...

Egypt is the caring mother who never murders her critics," declared Ashraq Al Awas, another Saudi-owned newspaper.

Kuwait's state-owned Al Rai newspaper said Mubarak should be invited to the Amman summit "to fill a gap that is a fatal weak point in the Arab body."

"We in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states feel we are not complete without Egypt and our security is tied to its security," the paper said.

Oman's state-owned press said foreign ministers of the GCC, which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, agreed last month to call for Egypt's readmission at the summit and to renew ties collectively if this was blocked.

But diplomats do not expect Arab heads of state to heed scattered calls for Egypt's immediate return to the 21-member Arab League, from which it was suspended in 1985.

"It's still too sensitive, given Arab divisions," one Arab envoy said. "If they discuss Egypt, it could wreck the summit."

Jordan and its conservative Gulf Arabs want Syria's support for a joint stand towards non-Arab Iran and lobbying on Egypt's behalf would antagonise Damascus, the diplomats said.

"No return for Egypt unless it frees itself from the Camp David chains," said one official in Damascus, referring to the U.S.-sponsored accord which heralded the Egypt-Israel treaty.

Diplomats said Syria would boycott any Arab summit attended by Egypt and foresaw early rifts in its relations with Cairo.

Syria, with its pan-Arab stand, may find it hard to sustain a pro-Iranian stance at the summit, especially if Gulf Arab states offer badly-needed financial incentives.

"Supporting Iran is a terribly unpopular policy inside and outside Syria," a Jordanian analyst said.

Libya may not even attend the Amman summit, apparently suspecting Jordan of seeking to lift the ban on Egypt.

Iraq has developed close ties with Egypt, but like some other Arab states would prefer to swing behind an Arab League vote rather than renew relations unilaterally as Jordan did in 1985.

Mubarak has campaigned with King Hussein for an international Middle East peace conference.

He is also trying to reconcile Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as potential negotiating partners.

Mubarak has met PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat twice since closing PLO offices in Egypt last April, but the contacts irritate hard-line PLO factions who visiting several Gulf Arab coun-

tries.

Hundreds of thousands of Egyptians work in Jordan, Iraq and the Gulf. For many Arabs, Cairo is a vital cultural centre and Gulf Arab investment and tourists in Egypt are on the rise.

Gulf states helped Cairo with hard currency payments, including \$300 million reportedly from Kuwait, to meet debt installments during a dollar crisis last year, diplomats said.

Posing as a bulwark against Iran is not Egypt's only role in the Arab World.

care, better schooling for their children, and the chance to travel abroad."

But according to playwright Alexander Misharin, the middle ranks now see the threat to their way of life receding.

Two years into the reconstruc-

LETTERS

A friendly advice

To the Editor:

AS OFTEN happens during my not infrequent trips I am asked by friends in Jordan's tourist industry what can Jordanians do to produce more tourists to Jordan. There is a great deal of talk, but in the end little is done.

Jasmin Tours is the U.K.'s leading specialist tour operator to Jordan. This month we will send around 300 passengers to Jordan — not bad when you think that only about 5,000 British tourists visit Jordan in year.

Sadly a large proportion of these visitors come in the 2 or 3 rather short peak periods — Easter, Christmas and October. During these times money cannot buy seats on Royal Jordanian, nor beds at Petra. For much of the rest of the year — you could scarcely give away free holidays to Jordan. Being so closely involved in promoting Jordan we are extremely conscious of the business that slips through our fingers because of lack of seats, beds, and equally important, convenient airline schedules.

The sad fact is that Royal Jordanian sells its seats too cheaply, then tells us it cannot afford to promote tourism or it is not worthwhile to reschedule its flights to suit tourism as the financial yield is too low.

Currently hotels in Jordan are ridiculously low priced — but empty for much of the year. Few of them spend a penny abroad in promoting tourism — they cannot afford to when they charge so little.

Let me say right away that even if the airline and the hotels put up their prices it would not necessarily mean very much higher prices to the consumer: (A) Any money spent by the Jordanians would reduce the very high cost we have in promoting Jordan, (B) the higher volume of traffic envisaged could result in lower per capita expenditure on promotion.

Petra is Jordan's major attraction. I am told the Forum loses money — yet again in the Peak Season you cannot buy rooms there. Of course a loss of accommodation at Petra means empty beds in Amman, invariably a lost tourist for the sake of JD 13 we lose a cheetah spending JD 130 minimum in Jordan. Indeed, one of the most ironical aspects of tourist promotions is the very low airfares for travellers to the West Bank depriving higher fare paying passengers of air seats — the very passengers who spend twice or three times as much in Jordan proper as pilgrim groups. Low airfares, low hotel prices are offset by sky high coach rates which means that in the off season when we could get together a very low priced package we are crippled by expensive coach prices for smallish groups.

In essence, Jordan could charge much more in the Peak Season without loss of any tourists. Not only could this benefit everyone but would give the profit margins for all concerned to boost their promotional efforts to create off peak business which could be generated, always providing we produce a worthwhile package on convenient airline schedules. We could generate significant new business for Agiba also new pilgrimage business when it is needed.

Instead of envying other Mediterranean countries — look at Cyprus which with similar political status to Jordan receives 1/4 million British visitors with much more upmarket repeat business who actually pay more for a flight to Larnaca than we pay to Amman and who spend more in a hotel in one day than we pay for four days in Agiba's best hotel.

Look at any British newspaper — when did you last see an advertisement promoting Jordan (only Jasmin, and maybe small ones). Time is past for the chaos and confusion — the days for talking, but little action, are over. It took five months to rescind the chaos over visa and airport charges costing Jasmin thousands of pounds. I may not be right but I am certain I am not wrong.

One last point before leaving the U.K. a certain well-known British travel trade newspaper asked me for some comments about Jordan's tourism. Soon afterwards I had a second phone call — no names, no pack drill, another Scots voice. "Jim — take it easy. Amman will not like what you are saying." Perhaps he is right — but can I suggest that one quick and simple solution is for Jordan to host in Amman for just a day or two — invited decision makers, foreign tour operators.

If I am wrong Jasmin will continue to enjoy a large slice of a small tourist cake. If I am right the cake will be much larger. Even if our share is smaller I will be delighted — "Don't speak when your mouth is full."

Jasmin Tours Ltd.
London.

Fiji faces up to post-colonial turmoil

The island usually referred to as a paradise is in danger of losing that title. Robin Padle looks at racial conflict and power politics in a once-quiet backwater of the world.

OPEN a diary containing maps of the world and the chances are that Fiji will not be on it. Nor will most of the thousands of other islands spread across the world's largest ocean, the Pacific.

Presumably, anyone interested in Manihiki or Tabuaeran already knows where they are and the rest of us will never want to look them up. However, a number of south Pacific island chains have exploded from this oblivion into the international headlines this year, the most significant being Fiji, which has suffered two bloody coups d'état since May and has rarely been out of the news since the first on May 14.

But are the events in this paradise archipelago of 300 islands — momentous though they are for the 715,000 inhabitants — of any international consequence at all? There is an argument which says they are not. A small problem in a small out-of-the-way place may be interesting or regrettable — or both or neither. But as it is seemingly irrelevant to the greater world economic and diplomatic order, it can safely be regarded as an internal difficulty.

However, there are a number of counter-arguments. The first is strategic. A circle drawn from a compass centred in the middle of the Pacific will brush New Zealand, Australia, South East Asia, China, Japan, Russia, North and South America. All have strategic sea and air lanes across

the Pacific.

The second argument is political. For years, the South Pacific islands have been largely ignored because of their stability and the complacent presumption by the West that traditional relations, friendships and alliances would last forever. In the last couple of years, this has proved not to be the case and both Russia and Libya started to take an interest just as stability wavered in several archipelagos.

Suddenly, Kiribati, formerly known as the Gilbert Islands, and Vanuatu, which was the New Hebrides, had fishing deals with the Russians, giving Moscow port facilities in the South Pacific for the first time. Lihya has links with Vanuatu, although a projected permanent Libyan mission in Port Vila is not yet open. There is no indication that Russia would wish to intervene in any way in Fiji but for the West to ignore what is going on there could send a wrong signal, not only to Moscow, about its indifference to events in the remotest regions of the Pacific.

Fiji gained independence from Britain in 1970 and since then colonial powers have slowly withdrawn from many other islands — Kiribati, Vanuatu, the Ellice Islands, now Tuvalu, Papua-New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. The great colonial empires resulted in major and unnatural population shifts as labour was

imported from one part of an empire to another. In some cases, such as Australia and the U.S., the new arrivals resulted in almost the annihilation of the indigenous populations. In others, the natives survived but the immigrants' descendants now form substantial sections of multi-racial populations. These racial differences have resulted in prejudices and discrimination which have thwarted the goal of peaceful integration and ethnic harmony.

So it is in Fiji. The present troubles have at their root the importation 100 years ago of Indian workers by the British to cut sugar. The British have gone — the Indians have not. They now slightly outnumber the Melanesians who have been there for 3,000 years or more.

Fiji is but the latest of the racial conflicts emanating from Britain's colonial habit of moving Indian workers around the Empire. Uganda Asians had to be airlifted out of Uganda 20 years ago; workers brought to work in Ceylon's tea plantations were of the minority ethnic group involved in Sri Lanka's recent bloody ethnic conflict.

In 100 years, Fijian Melanesians had seen the Indians grow in numbers, rise in prosperity to control most of the commerce and the key sugar crop and finally, in April, gain political control. The Melanesian fear that once in power the Indians would move to acquire land guaranteed to remain in the communal ownership of the Fijian tribes may be unfounded but it is understandable.

If Commonwealth pressure can secure a peaceful, democratic and non-racist resolution to the crisis, it will have proved it can play a useful international role. If it cannot, the question arises: is it more than an anachronistic talking shop? — Financial Times feature.

Deng's congress — showdown or showcase?

By Stephen Nisbet
Reuter

PEKING — A Chinese Communist Party Congress is more subtle than a horse race, but diplomats still jokingly ask one another for latest odds on the "leadership sweepstakes."

The envoys are trying to guess which men and ideological tendencies will emerge stronger from the meeting of 1,936 deputies starting in Peking on October 25.

The spectators don't all agree on the nature of what they are watching. Some don't even think there's a race on at all.

"What factions?" Chinese and some other Communists will say when asked which side in the 46-million-strong party has its nose in front.

Singapore labours over flexible wages scheme

There are not many countries in the world where the policies of its government prove too successful. However, Singapore is one, and Roger Matthews reports how the authorities are facing the latest problems in an effort to keep economically ahead.

SINGAPORE — This country has a problem rarely experienced elsewhere in the world: the policies of its government sometimes prove too successful.

Take population, for instance. Singapore used to have a "population problem." The government tackled it with the results that now, "if we do nothing, the consequences for the economy, for defence and for the survival of Singapore are all calamitous," according to a senior minister. The population is no longer replacing itself and the fertility rate has declined to a level rivalling that of West Germany.

However, there should not be too much cause for alarm, because the minister also pledged: "we are not going to sit passively watching ourselves become extinct". A new population policy is at hand.

A couple of years ago, Singapore also had an economic problem. In 1985, for the first time since independence, the economy contracted. The government responded with characteristic vigour, sharply reducing employers' costs, introducing a wages standstill, offering additional incentives to multinational companies and stepping up public works to aid the hard-hit construction industry.

By the second half of 1986, the economy was growing again and this year looks set to achieve 7 per cent growth — perhaps more. The new economic policy is a proven success.

But, like the population policy, might it have been too successful too quickly? Singapore's compact size and disciplined population make it an ideal laboratory for experiment and implementation. While ministers in the West, such as Mr. Nigel Lawson, the British Chancellor, may in general terms describe the desirability of greater wage flexibility, in Singapore it has quickly become a central plank of official policy.

Stung by the recession and the impact of losing 120,000 jobs in two years, almost equal to the total number of government employees, a special committee set out to examine how the economy could be made more responsive to recession.

One of its main answers was

wage flexibility. From 1979 to 1984, wages increased 40 per cent, with productivity lagging well behind. As a result, Singapore's competitive position was eroded by 50 per cent against Hong Kong, 35 per cent against South Korea and 15 per cent against Taiwan.

In part, this was again the result of official policy, which had planned for nominal wage increases of 20 per cent a year between 1979 and 1981 in order to escape from what was then described as "an anomalous situation of a tight labour market co-existing with low wages." But the momentum built up in those three years proved difficult to check. Expectations continued at a high level and company profitability declined.

Recession, unemployment and a wages freeze rapidly put a damper on expectations and helped provide what Mr. Lawrence Mah, executive director of the National Employers' Federation, describes as a unique opportunity to make the country's wage system more responsive to economic conditions. "This is going to be an exciting phase in our industrial relations because we are going to build into the system a fallback position which should mean far greater job security for everyone," he said.

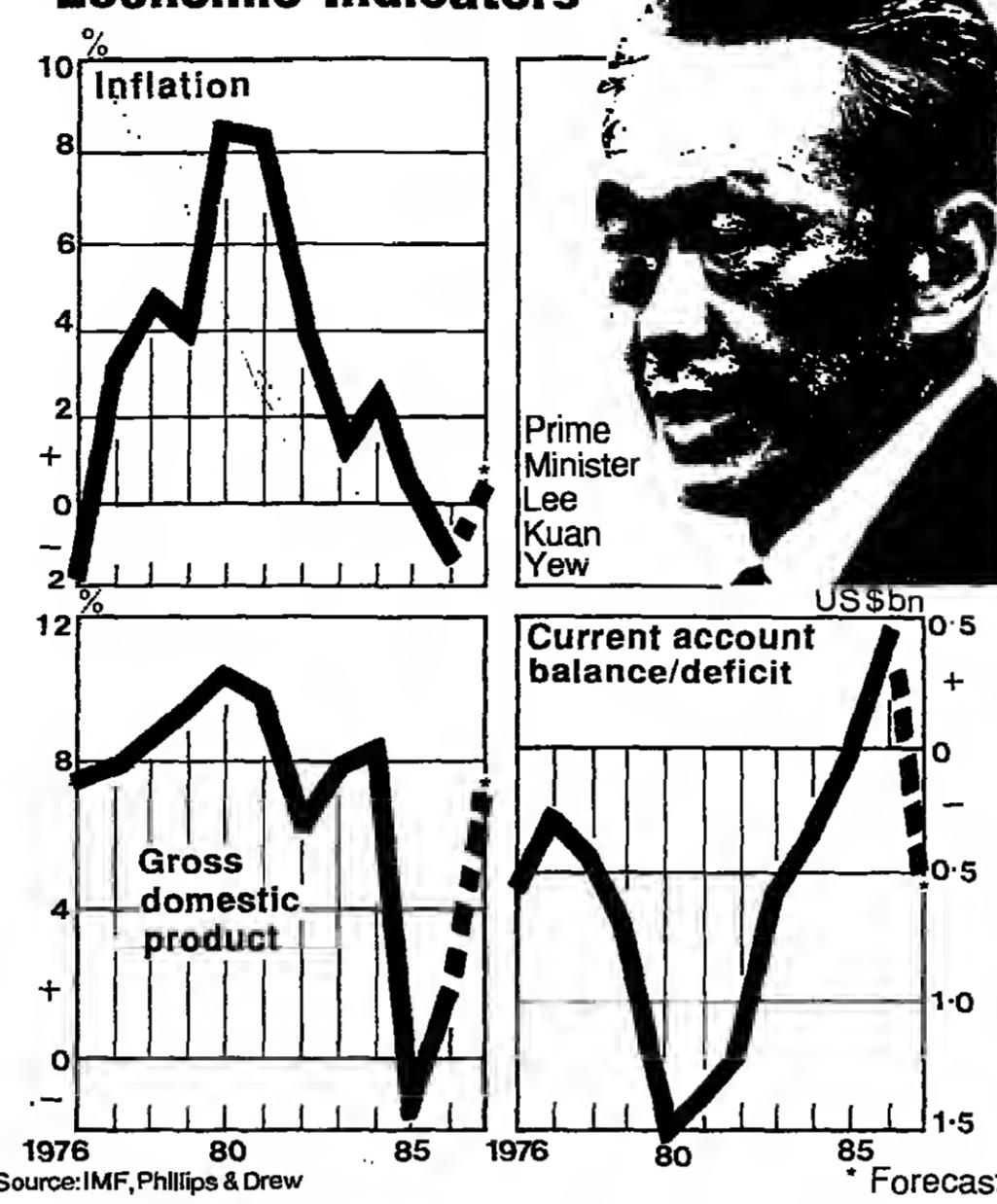
The government's target is for 20 per cent of wages to be variable and for fixed annual increases to be kept to a minimum. There are no hard-and-fast rules and it is accepted that companies will have to adopt whichever system best suits their individual circumstances. But, judging from the frequency and emphasis of ministerial speeches, there is no doubt of the government's determination for it to be implemented.

Several hundred companies

have already introduced new schemes, or are planning to do so. They vary greatly, ranging from relatively simple bonus schemes to more sophisticated structures tied to the performance of both company and individual. The government has said that it anticipates the full implementation of a flexible wages system could take several years.

However, the success the government has had in getting the

Singapore Economic Indicators



Source: IMF, Phillips & Drew



Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew

Abnormal blood pressure doubles heart attack, stroke risk

By Paul Raeburn
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A form of high blood pressure sometimes misinterpreted by doctors can double the risk of heart attack or stroke, a study presented Oct. 15 suggests.

Treatment of the condition when it begins to appear in middle age can cut the risks, but some doctors mistakenly assume that this form of blood pressure need not be treated, said Dr. William Kannel of Boston University.

Kannel is a former Director of the Framingham Heart Study, an influential, long-term study of heart disease among residents in Framingham, Massachusetts, and presented the findings Oct. 15 at the American Heart Association's annual high blood pressure meeting.

Kannel said medical records of 5,209 Framingham residents over a period of 30 years revealed that heart failure, heart attack and stroke occurred twice as often among people under 65 whose systolic blood pressure was above 160.

"Systolic" blood pressure is a measure of the pressure inside the blood vessels when the heart pumps. Diastolic pressure is the

measure of pressure between heartbeats.

A blood pressure reading of over 90, for example, which is arbitrarily considered to be the upper limit of normal, means the pumping pressure is 140 and the resting pressure is 90.

It was once thought that the diastolic or resting pressure was the key indicator of heart attack and stroke risks, Kannel said in an interview.

The new study follows other recent research showing that risks are associated with what is called isolated systolic hypertension, meaning an elevated pumping pressure with a normal resting pressure.

"This has been conceived of too often as an inevitable consequence of aging," Kannel said. In this study, he said, "we were trying ... to de-emphasise diastolic pressure, which for too long has been the hallmark of disease."

More than half of people over 65 who have high blood pressure have isolated systolic hypertension, Kannel said.

Almost 58 million Americans over age six suffer from some form of high blood pressure, according to the American Heart Association. In 90 per cent of the cases, the cause is unknown.

The higher the pumping pressure in middle age, the more it is likely to climb as age advances, Kannel said.

But doctors who prescribe drugs, exercise or weight control to lower the pressure during middle age probably can cut later risks, Kannel said.

The elevated pumping pressure "also predisposes to risk under age 65," said Kannel. "The reason for the focus on the elderly is that it's dismissed as harmless."

It has not yet been proven that early control of high pumping pressure can lower heart attack and stroke risks, Kannel said, but that is believed to be the case and studies are now under way to confirm it.

"This lends credence to the recommendation that mild hypertension should be treated," Kannel said.

Blood pressure under 140 over 90 may not require treatment, Kannel said. Isolated systolic hypertension is defined as a pumping pressure over 160 with a diastolic or resting pressure under 90.

At one time, doctors were not likely to treat patients with blood pressure under about 160 over 90, but doctors are increasingly choosing to treat patients with pressures above 140 over 90, Kannel said.

hard to obtain international rather than just U.S. guarantees, and also U.S. recognition of Palestinian fundamental rights at the price for leaving. No such luck, for the U.S. was determined there should be no linkage between withdrawal (technical) and Palestinian-Israeli conflict (political).

The PLO had expected a hard time from its enemies, but hardly from its friends. The abject failure of the Arab World, and notably Saudi Arabia and Syria, to stand up for the PLO in Washington, constitute for Dr. Khalidi a most shameful Arab betrayal of the Palestinian cause. Why did it happen? As Dr. Khalidi argues, it was not so much a matter of weakness (though that was true), as the fact that neither country really wanted the PLO to win a political victory. None of the Arab states welcomed a PLO victory that might reveal their own bankruptcy to the Arab people. So they went along with Washington's plans without fight, and when these were ratified in Jeddah on 26 July, the PLO knew the game was up. It accepted the Habib plan, though this neither spared us Beirut the worst bombardment of the siege, nor yet the final rape by Israeli and Phalangist troops.

Dr. Khalidi reveals, notwithstanding criticism, how the PLO leadership reached unanimity, in spite of the pressure (including precision bombing to kill the leadership) and a disinformation campaign waged by both Israel and the U.S. He shows how the protection of Palestinian civilians was a prime concern for the PLO from the outset, and how casualty, not to say carelessly, the U.S. accepted responsibility. Dr. Khalidi gives chapter and verse of repeated U.S. undertakings on this matter to satisfy PLO concern, showing there could be no excuse whatsoever for the premature U.S. supervisory forces' withdrawal, so long as hostile forces were in the vicinity. But, as Dr. Khalidi shouts, the U.S. was too absorbed in ensuring a PLO military withdrawal (and defeat) on its own terms to care about civilians until it was too late.

Colonel Ahu Attayash's book is entirely different in character, an emotional and highly personal account by a PLO field commander. His value, in spite of the hyperbole which comes across poorly in English, lies in his immediacy of the fog, stupidity and gallantries of war.

David McDowell

Richard Harris plans to set up Irish theatre company

By Paul Majendie
Reuter

DUBLIN — Richard Harris, sick of Hollywood blockbusters and coining in the dollars from "Camelot," is to set up his own Irish theatre company "because we are the best."

"I am very rich and I want to do something useful and constructive with the rest of my life," said the gravelly-voiced actor who used to drink two bottles of vodka a day and richly earned his reputation as a hellraiser.

Today, Harris, 54, an angular, mop-haired figure with gold-rimmed "granny" glasses, sticks to herbal tea and chewing gum. "I have stopped smoking too and need to have something in my mouth," he explained with a sheepish grin.

A hugely energetic figure with little time for the effusive cant of the showbusiness world, he has worked out new interpretations of the top Shakespeare roles and is eager to take the stage with an Irish troupe that would tour London's West End and Broadway.

Leaping dishevelled out of his

bed to act. That really was the truth," added Harris.

"Most of my best work was in films like The Sporting Life, The Snow Goose and A Man Called Horse which weren't expensive to make. We could take our time," he recalled.

But now it is on to pastures new with an Irish theatre company in which he hopes to include fellow Irishmen Peter O'Toole and Cyril Cusack. He has not yet decided whether it will be based in Dublin or London.

O'Toole was roasted by London critics for his stage portrayal of Macbeth. Undaunted, Harris would like to launch his company by playing Macbeth himself, with Vanessa Redgrave as Lady Macbeth.

"She's not Irish but she is enormously enthusiastic about our doing it together," Harris explained.

The makers of motion pictures today don't want you to be serious. They look at you as a number. Roger Moore said recently he was paid to turn up, not

to act. That really was the truth," added Harris.

"Broadway is just an extension of the West End nowadays. When the Royal Shakespeare or the National bring their plays to New York, all Broadwayians think that is the way Shakespeare should be done. That's utter nonsense."

"Never before in my lifetime have I seen Shakespeare so badly served," complained the man who is now ready to put his reputation on the firing line with three classical heavies — Macbeth, Hamlet and King Lear.

He is not turning his back on the film world but this time the motto will be — small is beautiful.

Harris hopes to make "the cost of living like this" by James Kennaway who wrote The Tunes of Glory, made into a memorable film with Sir Alec Guinness and Sir John Mills.

"I want to do it with my son Damien directing. It's a wonderful story all about an accountant dying of cancer, decaying England, all that sort of thing," he said.

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"As long as you don't ask them and mean it and put action behind your words, you're not going to get those markets open," said Gephart.

Others are generating surpluses which are dumped in world markets. And if you're dumping food in Africa under the label of food aid, the effect is to push the price down and lead farmers to shift to, say, livestock, which eat up all the grass. And then you get famine," Corbett said.

Canada and the EC have formally complained about specific U.S. trade rules at the current general agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT) free trade talks in Geneva.

"As some Third World countries that trade with the United States, trying to sell products from steel to shoes, say existing U.S. policy restricts their sales.

said in a crisp synopsis of the plot.

In Ireland to get his troupe off the drawing board and on to the stage, he is also raising funds for a foundation which he set up in the name of his late brother Dermot to send five students a year from their native Limerick to Scranton University, Pennsylvania.

Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey has agreed to be a patron of the foundation and Harris said that showed the project is not just the wild pipe dream of this rather wild rebel-ian actor.

But, amid the work, Harris makes time to indulge in the Irishman's passion for horses.

But the trouble is that when I went to the Irish yearling sales last night, I waved across at a trainer friend and nearly ended up with an 8,000 guinea colt."

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Is world trade free enough — or too free?

By David Reiss
Reuter

LONDON —

Politicians and economists agree that the world has a trade problem, but there is no consensus on what to do about it.

Producers,

from wheat farmers

in Kansas to steelmakers in

Korea, cannot always sell what they want, where they want.

Multi-billion dollar trade imbalances persist, costing jobs and straining relations between even the closest allies.

They make some politicians think that poet Robert Frost had a point when he wrote: "Good fences make good neighbours," and they advocate protectionist tariffs. Protectionist moves are strong in the United States which is swamped by imports.

"Now we're getting protection-

ist talk. And that makes for a real 1930s scenario," says Sykes Willford, an economist with investment bankers Drexel Burnham Lambert in London.

Economists say that when markets are closed off by tariffs or embargos or quotas, company

sales fall, workers are fired and

economies falter. It was the high U.S. import duties imposed in 1930 more than the Wall Street crash of 1929 that set off the great depression, some contend.

Central bankers meanwhile worry that when too much money flows one way to buy imports, as it is flowing now from the United States, it can force up interest rates. Higher borrowing costs squeeze an already sluggish world economy.

Economists are concerned that the only thing that keeps the economies of big importers like the United States on an even keel is a huge pool of international investment money. But that money in today's free-wheeling global market can vanish from a national economy at the touch of a few computer buttons.

"The effect has been to discourage production in those areas which are the most efficient producers," said Hugh Corbett, director of the privately-sponsored trade policy research centre in London.

"Our trade policy lacks courage to ask other countries directly to open their markets," said U.S

Liverpool storms to the top

LONDON (R) — Former champions Liverpool maintained their awesome form and unbeaten record by beating Queen's Park Rangers to take over as English first division leaders on Saturday while, in Scotland, three internationals were sent off in an ill-tempered Glasgow Derby between Rangers and Celtic.

Liverpool, with goals by Craig Johnston, John Aldridge — a penalty giving the Irish international his 12th goal of the season since replacing the departed Ian Rush — and a brace from England forward John Barnes beat previous leaders QPR 4-0 to take over at the top on goal difference with two games in hand.

But, on a day of violence on the field, Liverpool's achievement was sadly overshadowed by the dismissals of England international Chris Woods and Terry Butcher of Rangers and Frank Mcavennie of Celtic at Ibrox Park where 10-man Celtic held nine-man Rangers 2-2.

The Glasgow-based trio's disgrace was mirrored in England where two men were sent off.

Sheffield Wednesday striker Lee Chapman was dismissed for dissent in his team's 3-0 defeat by Nottingham Forest and Everton striker Adrian Heath for a foul in the champions' 1-1 draw at Newcastle, where Mirandinha headed his fifth goal since becoming the first Brazilian to play for an English League club.

Liverpool had to wait until four minutes before the interval before they breached QPR's five-point lead at Anfield where former star Rush, now with Italy's Juventus, was a spectator.

TENNIS

Navratilova crushes Sabatini

FILDERSTADT, West Germany (Agencies) — Martina Navratilova crushed Gabriela Sabatini 6-1, 6-2 on Saturday to reach the final of the Filderstadt women's tennis tournament.

The American was at her devastating best as she wrapped up the match in 67 minutes against the dejected 17-year-old.

"I played badly in the two games I lost in the first set and she played well in the two she won in the second," Navratilova said.

Sabatini, who beat Navratilova for the first time this year in Rome, held her own at the start.

But from 2-2 in the first set, Navratilova, who has her eye firmly on the tournament prize of a Porsche Cabriolet sports car,

Johnston made the breakthrough, with Barnes, who scored twice in England's 8-0 European championship rout of Turkey on Wednesday, supplying the pass.

Aldridge's penalty in the 64th minute maintained his run of scoring in every one of the 11 matches he has started for Liverpool and broke a 63-year-old club record. He has now scored in nine successive league games.

Barnes, in superb form, wrapped up the Reds' comprehensive win with two spectacular late goals, his final effort a thrilling solo strike after a run past four defenders.

The win took Liverpool to 25 points, level with QPR, but ahead on goal difference, while Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest moved up to third ahead of Manchester United on a similar basis. United came from behind to beat Norwich 2-1. England captain Bryan Robson bravely heading a decisive goal 10 minutes from time.

Wayne Biggs had driven Norwich ahead after 29 minutes, with recalled striker Peter Davenport replying one minute after the interval for the Manchester team.

Nottingham Forest's task against struggling Sheffield Wednesday was made easier in the second half following the dis-

missal of Chapman, who argued with the referee. Wednesday were already trailing to a 19th minute goal by Nigel Clough and Franz Carr and Paul Wilkinson were able to wrap up a comfortable win.

Kerry Dixon's eighth goal of the season after 72 minutes earned Chelsea a narrow 1-0 win over Coventry and kept them among the challenging pack, but Everton had to settle for a point at Newcastle.

Both goals came in the first half, midfielder Ian Snodin putting Everton ahead after nine minutes and Mirandinha levelling four minutes later. Five men were cautioned in this fiery clash in which Heath was dismissed.

West Ham recorded only their second league win of a troubled season to date when they won 2-1 at Oxford. An own goal by Tommy Caton put them ahead and striker Tony Cottee added a second before Dean Saunders pulled a goal back.

Luton, who have also struggled to repeat last season's form, beat Wimbledon 2-0 with goals from Brian Stein and Northern Ireland international midfielder Danny McKnight.

Winger Danny Wallace hit Southampton's 68th minute winner against struggling Watford to lift the South Coast club out of the bottom three where Charlton are firmly anchored after a 1-0 home defeat to Derby. Steve Cross scoring.

Tottenham and Arsenal were out of action because they meet on Sunday, but two of Spurs' former stars were among the

headlines in the dramas at Ibrox where Rangers came back from 2-0 down to equalise in the final seconds.

Alas skill was submerged by violence in the match which saw Rangers' goalkeeper Woods and Celtic's recently-signed striker Mcavennie — an £80,000 (\$1.25 million) signing from West Ham, where he fell out with Cottee — dismissed after only 16 minutes.

Mcavennie followed through to challenge Woods late and appeared to slap and hit him. Woods retaliated and, after a melee in which Rangers' former Spurs and England defender Graham Roberts also seemed to throw a punch, they were shown the red card.

Roberts escaped punishment and went in goal while Butcher was shown a yellow card for dissent. He was shown a red one after 62 minutes when he lashed out at the Celtic goalkeeper Allen McKnight.

Butcher's unhappy afternoon had begun with him scoring an own goal to pull Celtic 2-0 up in 35 minutes. Andy Walker having opened the scoring two minutes earlier.

In a stirring revival, however,

Ally McCoist pulled a goal back for Rangers after 65 minutes and, in the final minute, Richard Gough, signed only last week from Tottenham for £1.5 million (\$2.35 million), made it 2-2.

The draw had little effect on the first division table. Hearts staying on top despite losing 2-1 at Hibernian in the Edinburgh Derby. Paul Kane and Eddie May put Hibs 2-0 up in six minutes. John Robertson scored for Hearts after 15.

BOXING

Tyson humbles Biggs, retains title

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (R) — Tyrell Biggs looked like he had been caught in an street brawl and that's the way Mike Tyson fought on Friday to retain his undisputed heavyweight title.

The 21-year-old champion battered Biggs with lefts, rights, elbows, forearms and his head before the referee stopped the bout in the seventh round.

Biggs, a deep gash over his left eye and the rest of his face a mass of welts and bruises, said he was hurt the most in the third round when he was hit with a left hook to the head, as the referee broke a clinch.

"All I came here to do was to knock him out," Tyson said. "I could have knocked him out in the third round, but I wanted to punish him for all the pre-fight talk."

Tyson did, indeed, punish the 26-year-old Biggs for most of the fight, not allowing him to use his reach advantage to keep the champion at bay.

Biggs said the fight ended "fair and square" after he was knocked down for the second time in the seventh round on a right uppercut and thunderous left hook, forcing the referee to end the punishment with just one second remaining.

But Biggs charged that the rest of the fight was not fair. "Unfortunately, the public accepts his dirty tactics," Biggs said. "Tyson fights according to his nature."

Tyson, upon hearing that former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes said on a closed circuit television broadcast that the young champion used a lot of dirty tactics, said: "I fight to win and don't recall any dirty tactics."

Holmes has said he will come out of retirement to fight Tyson in January.

"But Tyson, the street kid from Brooklyn who spent time in a reformatory as a youth, clearly was not a model of sportsmanship in the ring on Friday night."

Tyson, who entered the ring for the first defence of his undisputed title with all three of his championship belts, wasted little time in the first round. He quickly landed the first punch — a hard right to the body — and before the round ended split Biggs' lip which oozed blood for the rest of



'I came here to knock him out'

the bout.

After the bell sounded, Tyson, as he would do several more times, flicked a punch at Biggs and wanted to keep fighting.

Several times the shorter Tyson bared in on Biggs with his head hitting the cut over Biggs' eye.

And often Biggs, blood coming down his cheek, clinched and looked to his corner with a bewildered look in his eyes.

Each round after the third, Biggs' cornermen worked feverishly to close the cut over his eye only to have it opened again in the next round by Tyson's

onslaught, as each blow to the head splattered blood over the champion, the referee and Biggs' white trunks.

Biggs' manager Lou Duva was asked if he had lost control over his fighter, who abandoned his fight plan of jabbing and staying away from Tyson and often dropped his guard making it even easier for the champion to score at will.

"No. He lost momentum due to elbows and lots of hitting on the breaks. The referee should have been bigger man. He couldn't control the clinches and dirty tactics."

The seventh round began with Tyson hitting the 1984 Olympic gold medallist with a left hook knocking out his mouthpiece. Biggs tried to hold on, but Tyson used his forearms to inflict more damage and unloaded a lefthook to the challenger's head sending him through the ropes.

Sensing the end, Tyson moved in to finish him off. He struck first with a right and followed shortly with a rocket left hook that sent Biggs sprawling.

American referee Tony Orlano dashed over and ended the fight as Biggs' cornermen jumped into the ring to help their man.

As badly beaten as he was, Biggs still managed to say that there is now a poor selection of heavyweights. I will beat Tyson on my comeback."

Tyson had little to say, but ended a news conference after the fight saying: "I see no one who can beat me. I'm the best in the world. I gotta go now."

Mansell survives Mexico spin

MEXICO CITY (R) — Britain's Nigel Mansell emerged shocked but apparently only bruised from a spectacular home straight spin in Mexico grand practice on Friday.

After hitting a hump on the track, his Williams car slid backwards along the start of the home straight and crashed broadside into the steel scaffolding holding chequered flag marshall and pits exit light.

The Briton, chasing hard in a long-shot bid to snatch the world driver's title from teammate Nelson Piquet, sat in the car for a few minutes, clearly shocked. He was helped out by marshalls and sat on the trackside at the pits exit for a few minutes before limping back to the Williams pit.

"I'm ok. I'll be able to continue practice tomorrow," he told reporters afterwards.

Austria's Gerhard Berger, who won his first Grand Prix here last year when driving a Benetton, had the fastest practice time on Friday in his Ferrari, clocking a lap of one minute 19.992 seconds, an average speed of 198.965 kph.

Reigning world champion Alain Prost of France was second-fastest, followed by Mansell, Piquet, Belgium's Thierry Boutsen in a Benetton and the other Ferrari, driven by Italy's Michel Alboreto.

Mansell's lucky escape, and a series of other spins including Sweden's Stefan Johansson in a McLaren and Britain's Martin Brundle in a West Zakspeed and West German Zakspeed teammate Christian Danner drew attention to the poor state of the Mexico City track.

Mansell said it was a series of bad humps on the long, banked final curve that caused him to lose control.

The two Brazilians, Piquet and Senna, complained strongly to



Nigel Mansell

reporters that the track at the smog-shrouded Rodriguez Brothers Autodrome was covered in thick dust and full of bumps, nothing had improved since last year when many drivers spun off and others complained, they said.

"It was like driving in the desert," Piquet said.

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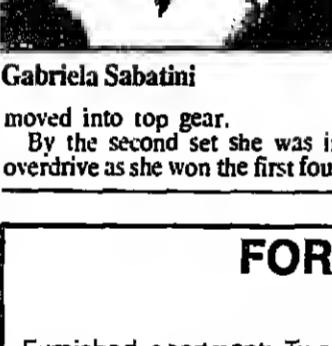
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 - The above rent includes electricity, water and fuel.
 - Two bedrooms flat, rent JD 1,800 annually
 - Three bedrooms flat, rent JD 2,000 annually
- All the apartments have colour TV and telephones. The apartments can be rented monthly on the same basis.

For information call 818802, 814012, 814010.

FURNISHED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Each apartment consists of one or two bedrooms in a most beautiful area in Jabal Amman - Third Circle. Apartments are provided with all services including telephone, lift, and central heating.

For more information call: 644180 - 644528.

FOR RENT FURNISHED STUDIO ROOMS

Rooms are provided with joint services (salon, kitchen, squash playground, garden, telephone). Preference will be given to individuals who have private cars.

Location: In an excellent location in Princess Haya Suburb - Al Hummar. Monthly rents start from JD 50. For information call 846779.

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Consisting of two bedrooms, two bathrooms and large salon with good furniture.

Location: Jabal Amman, behind Zahran Palace.

For information call: Al Salam Real Estate office, tel: 813577.

FOR RENT LARGE UNFURNISHED APARTMENT

Four bedrooms, two large living rooms, kitchen, two bathrooms, separate telephone, separate entrance. Suitable for offices too. Location: Seventh Circle.

Please call tel: 812888

AUDITIONS

The Amman Players will be holding auditions for their Christmas pantomime, "Sleeping Beauty" on Tuesday 20th October at the British Council (Rainbow Street)

from 6-8 p.m.

Actors, actresses, singers, musicians and backstage crew all needed.

Newcomers are particularly welcome.

Performances will be on 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th December.

Cinema CONCORD

Tel: 677420

THE MORNING AFTER

Performances: 3, 10, 16, 23, 30, 10:30



India rejects Tamil ceasefire call, continues offensive

COLOMBO (R) — India rejected a ceasefire call by Tamil guerrillas in Sri Lanka and pressed ahead with its military offensive on the rebel stronghold of Jaffna, an Indian official said on Saturday.

Thousands of civilians fled the besieged northern city, now suffering a serious shortage of food, water and medical supplies.

The official said 6,000 Indian troops, closing in for a four-pronged attack on Jaffna, would stop the offensive only if the rebels surrendered all their weapons and pledged full support for a peace accord.

"If they surrender their weapons completely and publicly announce their unreserved support for the peace accord and cooperate fully in implementing it, the reasons for which the military operation was launched would no longer exist," the official told reporters on Friday.

The official said the ceasefire appeal by the besieged Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels might be a ruse to regroup or to escape to other parts of the

island and continue their violence.

An official from the Sri Lanka Red Cross flew from Colombo to Jaffna on Saturday in a military plane to assess the plight of the 133,000 civilians in Jaffna.

Officials in Colombo and refugees fleeing Jaffna spoke of a serious shortage of food, water and medicine.

"If this situation continues for a long time, people including children, will have to die of hunger," said a Jaffna resident who fled to Vavuniya, 140 kilometres away.

Military sources in Madras, the Indian base for its Sri Lanka operation, said 1,000 troops had been airlifted to the island on Thursday in Indian Airlines planes commandeered at short notice.

The reinforcements boosted the Indian forces on the island to

16,000.

Indian troops were first posted in July to supervise the implementation of a peace accord signed by President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in July to end four-year Tamil rebellion.

The Tigers, the most powerful rebel group, accepted the pact reluctantly, then repudiated it and massacred 200 majority Sinhalese in retaliation after 12 of their comrades in government custody committed suicide.

Pressed by Mr. Jayewardene to stop the massacres immediately, India launched the offensive on Oct. 10 to disarm the rebels.

An Indian official said 507 rebels and 80 Indian soldiers had been killed in the week-long battles. Seventeen Indian soldiers were also reported missing in action.

The official said the Indian troops, advancing in a four-pronged attack on Friday, had captured three towns — Urupparai, Udduvil and Manipay, all of them Tiger strongholds.

Kirkpatrick may enter presidential race'

NEW YORK (R) — Jeane Kirkpatrick, Washington's former ambassador to the United Nations, wants to become the first woman president of the United States, the New York Times reported on Saturday.

The newspaper quoted former New Hampshire Governor Melvin Thompson as saying Mrs. Kirkpatrick was considering the formation of a committee to explore a race for the Republican nomination.

"I firmly believe we will see a

commitment that allows us to go ahead with an exploratory committee by the end of the week," said Thompson, a long-time Kirkpatrick associate.

Thompson said Mrs. Kirkpatrick was interested in a formal declaration by Nov. 1.

The newspaper quoted a statement issued by an assistant to Mrs. Kirkpatrick as saying "she is seriously considering the suggestion that she become a candidate because she is not satisfied the

pressing issues that should be discussed are being dealt with adequately."

Mrs. Kirkpatrick, now a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank, resigned as U.N. delegate in January 1985.

The right-wing of the Republican Party has been dissatisfied with leading party candidates Vice President George Bush and Kansas Senator Bob Dole, considering both of them too moderate.

With Britain alone dissenting, Commonwealth leaders vowed to continue on the path to tougher sanctions, set up a foreign ministers' group to monitor events in southern Africa and take further action.

The students belonged to the Pakistan Peoples Party led by leading opposition figure Benazir Bhutto. Spokesmen have said more than a dozen student activists of different parties have been in detention since a police swoop from the gates and the students retaliated by hurling stones.

The students are from the Pakistan Peoples Party led by leading opposition figure Benazir

Pakistani students, police clash outside stadium

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Stone-throwing Pakistani students clashed with police outside the cricket ground where England and Sri Lanka were playing in a World Cup match here on Saturday.

Witnesses said periodic skirmishes broke out around the Shah Bagh Stadium as the stu-

dents attempted to enter and demonstrate for the release of some of their leaders.

Police using canes chased them away from the gates and the students retaliated by hurling stones.

The students belonged to the Pakistan Peoples Party led by leading opposition figure Benazir

Bhutto. Spokesmen have said more than a dozen student activists of different parties have been in detention since a police swoop from the gates and the students retaliated by hurling stones.

Many of the several hundred spectators in the stadium had their backs to the pitch as they watched the running fights outside.

With Britain alone dissenting, Commonwealth leaders vowed to continue on the path to tougher sanctions, set up a foreign ministers' group to monitor events in southern Africa and take further action.

While splitting from the group on the sanctions issue, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher agreed to step up aid to South Africa's black neighbours.

"With the exception of Britain, we believe that economic and other sanctions have had a significant effect on South Africa and that their wider, tighter and more intensified application must remain an essential part of the international community's response to apartheid," the statement said.

The leaders announced no new sanctions, but the statement added: "We commit ourselves to continuing efforts to secure a more concerted application of a global sanctions programme."

The accord emerged from 24 hours of meetings at a mountain resort east of Vancouver, where leaders also agreed that Fiji's membership in the 48-nation Commonwealth had lapsed following a military coup.

The statement on South Africa said the Commonwealth believed Pretoria's apartheid policy had seriously escalated the crisis in southern Africa since their last summit two years ago in Nassau, Bahamas.

The Commonwealth said it planned to establish an eight-member committee of foreign ministers led by Canada, a strong opponent of apartheid, "to meet periodically to provide high-level impetus and guidance" on the conflict in southern Africa.

"It's a matter of rehydrating her and observing her and observing patches of skin that suffered from lack of blood circulation," said Dr. Rhode, who called Jessica "a delightful child" who needed to get back into her routine quickly.

Jessica's endurance impressed her rescuers even before she was lifted from the well.

"The girl is very strong: She talks, she answers, she answers commands. She says 'mama' all the time — she doesn't appear to be lost," said Dr. Rhode.

"She's in very good shape," said Dr. Tierney.

The bundled baby, eyes blinking in the glare of television cameras that crowded to the site, was unhooked from the crane cable and rushed to an ambulance.

Relieved rescue workers slapped each other on the back and shook bands, while onlookers in their cars bonked their horns.

The drama had gripped the nation, with television networks repeatedly cutting into regular programming for live updates on the progress of the slow, careful and at times extremely tedious and frustrating operation.

Jessica's parents, Chip and Reba McClure, both 18 years old, alternated between smiling and wringing their hands in frustration as they waited beside the tables set down to pull Jessica from beneath the ground.

Sympathetic messages from as far away as Australia reached the child's parents and journalists from around the globe arrived to cover the inch-by-inch progress of the rescue.

A paramedic brought the baby out of the well through a 60 centimetre hole that had been punched into the chamber where she was trapped.

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